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Administration Reverses

The American people have been rudely awakened during the past week to the harsh realities of their precarious situation in the world. For the first time they have more than an inkling of what President Kennedy has been talking about for the past few months when he called for sacrifices by Americans.

The President has been universally applauded since his inauguration for the decisive and workmanlike way that he took over the reins of leadership. As the first 100 days of the Kennedy administration passed into history, the President achieved great heights of personal popularity but at the same time no one appeared to pay a great deal of attention to what he was talking about. He didn't get through to the American people. His failure to do so now appears to be because he talked too much in generalities.

President Kennedy could not have anticipated the disaster in Cuba or the Communist double-cross in Laos, but he could have been much more specific than he was about the hazards that faced the nation internationally.

The Kennedy administration inherited the Cuban problem from its predecessor, but it also inherited

all the other major international problems which beset the United States around the globe. It will be remembered that the Eisenhower administration inherited the Korean War from its predecessor. Problems do not extinguish themselves from one administration to another.

President Kennedy has accepted personal responsibility for the grave error that was made in Cuba. ~~Allen Dulles of the Central Intelligence Agency is the scapegoat and rightly so, it would appear.~~ But the President could not escape blame for relying on bad advice. Strangely enough the mood of the public appears to be such that there is no groundswell of opinion against Kennedy. Despite his failures, he is not discredited.

Gen. Eisenhower's refusal to criticize may be in part indicative of that mood as well as evidence of awareness that criticism from him is the last thing that Kennedy needs at this juncture.

The President certainly has much sympathy as a victim of circumstances, but that sympathy will surely wear out soon if the United States suffers another reverse or unless the administration shows more ability to control the circumstances.